

CLAIMS

1) An inking and doctor unit (3) for a rotogravure print and spread cylinder, comprising a casing (13); a
5 doctor assembly (14) including a doctor (24) fitted to a doctor carrier (25); and an inking chamber (15) bounded by a concave inner surface (13a) of the casing (13) and at least partly by the doctor assembly (14); the casing (13) and the doctor assembly (14) forming a box body (18)
10 closed except for one side engaging in use a print cylinder (2); characterized in that the doctor (24) is mounted to lie flat with respect to a lateral surface (11) of the print cylinder (2), when the box body (18) engages the print cylinder (2); and in that the doctor
15 carrier (25) comprises a rocking support (27) rotating about a regulating axis (C) parallel in use to an axis of rotation (A) of the print cylinder (2); and a slide (28) integral with the doctor (24) and which slides on the support (27).

20 2) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, characterized by comprising first sealing means (21, 21a, 22, 22a; 19a, 20a) for hermetic connection to the print cylinder (2).

3) A unit as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the first sealing means (21, 21a, 22, 22a) are flat-
25 surface sealing means designed to engage opposite end surfaces (10) of the print cylinder (2).

4) A unit as claimed in Claim 3, characterized in that said first sealing means (21, 21a, 22, 22a) comprise

a first and a second plate (21, 22) fitted at opposite ends of the casing (13) and having respective sealing edges (21a, 22a) facing each other and arranged to slide on respective said end surfaces (10) when the box body
5 (18) engages the print cylinder (2).

5) A unit as claimed in Claim 4, characterized in that the first and second plate (21, 22) are movable with respect to the casing (13); and by comprising elastic means (21b, 22b; 50) associated with the first and second
10 plate (21, 22) to press the first and second plate (21, 22) against respective said end surfaces (10) when the box body (18) engages the print cylinder (2).

6) A unit as claimed in Claim 2, characterized in that the first sealing means (19a, 20a) are radial
15 sealing means shaped to engage the lateral surface (11) of the print cylinder (2).

7) A unit as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that the first sealing means (19a, 20a) are carried by the casing (13), at opposite ends of the doctor assembly
20 (14), and comprise sealing edges (19a, 20a) of the casing (13) shaped to slide on the lateral surface (11) of the print cylinder (2) along at least a predetermined arc, when the box body (18) engages the print cylinder (2).

8) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, characterized by
25 comprising second sealing means (34, 35, 36) between the doctor assembly (14) and the casing (13).

9) A unit as claimed in Claim 8, characterized in that the second sealing means (34, 35, 36) comprise seals

(34, 35) located at opposite ends of the doctor assembly (14), flush with a first and second lateral wall (19, 20) respectively of the casing (13).

10 10) A unit as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that the second sealing means (34, 35, 36) comprise pads (36) made of low-friction material, incorporated in the first and second lateral wall (19, 20) of the casing (13), and located at opposite ends of the doctor assembly (14); and pressure means (37, 38) for pressing the pads (36) against the opposite ends of the doctor assembly (14).

15 11) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, characterized by comprising third sealing means (32, 33) between a sealing surface (28a) of the doctor assembly (14) extending continuously along the whole width of the doctor assembly (14); and an edge (13b) of the casing (13) adjacent to the sealing surface (28a).

20 12) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the doctor (24) is fitted to the doctor carrier (25) for resting in use on the lateral surface (11) of the print cylinder (2) along a doctor line (R); the doctor (24) forming an acute angle with a plane tangent to the lateral surface (11) of the print cylinder (2) along the doctor line (R), on the ink (12) feed side.

25 13) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, characterized by comprising actuating members (30) for moving the slide (28) with respect to the support (27a; 13c).

14) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, characterized by

comprising an inking roller (16) housed inside the inking chamber (15) with an axis (B) of rotation parallel to the axis of rotation (A) of the print cylinder (2) for pressing ink (12) collected inside the inking chamber (15) against the lateral surface (11) of the print cylinder (2).

15) A unit as claimed in Claim 1, characterized by comprising a hood (17) designed to define, in use, a wetting chamber (39) about a portion of the lateral surface (11) of the print cylinder (2) extending substantially between a print area (8) and the inking chamber (15).

16) A unit as claimed in Claim 15, characterized by comprising first and second feed means (6, 7) for feeding a wetting fluid and a cleaning fluid respectively into the hood (17).

17) A rotogravure print and spread assembly (1) comprising a print cylinder (2) having an axis of rotation (A); characterized by comprising an inking and doctor unit (3) as claimed in Claim 1.

18) An assembly as claimed in Claim 17, characterized by comprising actuating means (4) for adjusting the relative position of the inking and doctor unit (3) with respect to the print cylinder (2).

19) An assembly as claimed in Claim 18, characterized in that the actuating means (4) comprise rotary actuating means (40, 45) for rotating the inking and doctor unit (3) about the axis of rotation (A) of the

print cylinder (2).

20) An assembly as claimed in Claim 18, characterized in that the actuating means (4) comprise first translatable actuating means (41) for translating the inking and doctor unit (3) in a first direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of rotation (A); and second translatable actuating means (4) for translating the inking and doctor unit (3) in a second direction substantially parallel to the axis of rotation (A).